

Amendments

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 26 without prejudice and disclaimer.

REMARKS

Claim 26 has been cancelled herein without prejudice and disclaimer in order to hasten prosecution. Hence, all rejections pertaining to claim 26 no longer apply. It is to be understood that cancellation of the claim is not meant to be an acquiescence to any outstanding rejections, and applicants reserve the right to bring the claim again in a subsequent, related application.

Applicants apologize for any confusion caused by their inadvertent oversight to cancel claim 26 in the previous amendment, and appreciate the opportunity to do so now.

Applicants respectfully submit that the currently pending claims define an invention which complies with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112 and which is novel and nonobvious over the art. Accordingly, allowance is believed to be in order and an early notification to that effect would be appreciated.

Atty Dkt No. 2300-0035.13  
USSN: 08/288,336  
PATENT

Please direct all further communications in this application to:

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Respectfully submitted,

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